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Message Text

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21
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /043 W
---------- 124576
R 261932Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4442
INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, MX
SUBJECT: TELEPHONE STRIKE ENDS

REF: MEXICO 5187

1. STRIKING TELEPHONE WORKERS ENDED THEIR ILLEGAL THREE-DAY WALKOUT AND BEGAN RETURNING TO WORK ON APRIL 26. THE SECRETARY OF LABOR BROUGHT ABOUT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE STRIKERS AND THE INCUBENT UNION LEADERS THAT CALLED FOR A DECISIVE RUNOFF ELECTION ON MAY 11 TO DECIDE WHO WOULD REPRESENT THE 16,000 UNION WORK FORCE OF TELEFONOS DE MEXICO.

2. THE DEMANDS OF THE STRIKERS, FOREMOST BEING A 35 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE, HAVE BEEN SHUNTED ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT. MEANWHILE, THE TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WHICH INCLUDES THE 15 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE, SIGNED BY THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANY AND THE NATIONAL UNION OF TELEPHONE WORKERS WENT INTO EFFECT APRIL 25.

3. COMMENT: THE STRIKERS WERE JUBILANT WITH THE AGREEMENT TO OFFICIALLY CHALLENGE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNION ON MAY 11; THIS MAY CREATE NEW PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT IF OTHER DISSIDENT UNION MEMBERS FROM OTHER INDUSTRIES DECIDE TO FOLLOW SUIT. ANOTHER POTENTIAL LIABILITY TO THE PRI MAY DEVELOP IF THE INCUMBENT
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SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNION, SALUSTIO SALGADO, ALSO

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PRI CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL DEPUTY FROM GUERRERO, LOSES THE UNION ELECTION, A VERY LIKELY POSSIBILITY.

4. THE NATIONAL CHARACTER OF THIS TELEPHONE WORKERS WILDCAT STRIKE, WHICH RAPIDLY SPREAD TO OVER THIRTY CITIES, IN A CRUCIAL INDUSTRY, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SPONTANEOUS. CONTINGENCY PLANS MUST HAVE BEEN PREPARED. HOWEVER, TO DATE, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY POLITICAL GROUP WAS BEHING THE ACTION.
THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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